



**Kayda Keleher**  
**Associate Director**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States**

Kayda Keleher is an Associate Director for the National Legislative Service of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It is her responsibility to analyze and consult with Congress on issues related to health care, homelessness and women veterans.

Kayda was born in Camp Lejeune, N.C., where both her parents served in the Marine Corps, though she considers Buffalo, N.Y., to be her hometown. She enlisted into the Marine Corps out of high school and served five years as a combat correspondent. During her time on active duty she served one tour in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, where she was responsible for journalism coverage of Female Engagement Teams, and worked alongside them in humanitarian efforts surrounding women and children.



After returning from Afghanistan, she began using the Post-9/11 GI Bill to obtain an associate's degree from Erie Community College in Buffalo, N.Y. While attending school she also worked as a women's refugee liaison, helping them learn English as well as integrate into American culture. After earning her two-year degree she transferred to The American University in Washington, D.C., to study psychology and public health.

Kayda has done volunteer work with a private, veteran-owned art therapy company for individuals with PTSD, and worked as the studies coordinator for AU's veteran community, where she served as a liaison between researchers and veterans. She was later offered the opportunity for a health care fellowship with the VFW, where she primarily focused on the health care needs of women veterans. Upon completing her fellowship she was offered her current position with the VFW.

Kayda currently resides in Washington, D.C., and is a member of VFW Post 5627 in College Park, Md., where she continues to serve on various panels addressing veterans' health care and benefits.

-vfw-